

February 23, 2019

Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco  
Environment Committee, Co-Chairs  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: Proposed House Bill No. 6637 – AN ACT REQUIRING AN  
INVASIVE SPECIES STAMP FOR THE OPERATION OF A MOTORBOAT  
ON THE INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE**

Dear Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco:

My name is John Williams and I am a member of the Connecticut lakes community.

I support passage of House Bill No. 6637 requiring an invasive species stamp for operation of a motor boat in the inland waters of our state. The money for the DEEP could be used both for education about invasive species and response to situations on our lakes, rivers and streams. In addition it will promote awareness of the threat of invasive species to our lakes among the boat owners, the largest source of the problem. Not cleaning boats before and after using our lakes and rivers allows the spread of invasive species in our state. I don't think boaters maliciously spread invasive species but I do believe many are not aware of the threat to our waters. Prevention is the key to containing invasives.

My wife and I live on Middle Bolton Lake in Vernon. We moved here recently to enjoy swimming and kayaking on a beautiful lake. At our first lake meeting sponsored by the Friends of Bolton Lakes, my wife brought a sample of a weed found in front of our house for identification. It turned out to be fanwort, an invasive and the first identification of fanwort on our lake. The response by the town of Vernon was quick and effective. We were lucky.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 6637 in committee and hopefully yes again when it moves to the house floor.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Williams

129 Grier Road

Vernon, CT 06066

cc: Senator Dan Champagne and Representative Tim Ackert